

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7223

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 3163

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2850

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, BX

SUBJ: BRUNEI PEOPLES PARTY RECONSTITUTED

REF: A. K.L. A-52, 4/18/74

B. K.L. 3305, 7/28/73

1. SUMMARY: BRUNEI PEOPLES PARTY (BPP) HAS BEEN RECONSTITUTED IN MALAYSIA UNDER LEADERSHIP OF A.M.N. AZAHARI, LEADER OF OLD NORTH KALIMANTAN PEOPLES ARMY (TNKU). NEW OFFICERS OF BPP MAINLY COMPRISED OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO ESCAPED FROM BRUNEI INTO SARAWAK IN MID-1973. GOM MOTIVES ON ALLOWING REVIVAL OF BPP ARE CLEARLY DIRECTED AT HASTENING LIBERALIZATION OF BRUNEI'S POLITICAL SYSTEM BUT THIS OBJECTIVE AT SAME TIME CONTRADICTS
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GOM NEUTRALIST FOREIGN POLICY WHICH FORESWEARS INTERFERENCE IN

INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF NEIGHBORING STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. MALAY LANGUAGE DAILY "UTUSAN MALAYSIA" JUNE 18 FRONTPAGES REPORT THAT BRUNEI PEOPLES PARTY (PARTAI RAKYAT BRUNAI OR BPP) HAS BEEN RECONSTITUTED AND OFFICERS FOR 1974-75 ELECTED AT RECENT MEETING. REPORT ALSO STATES BPP HAS "TEMPORARY OFFICE" HERE. NEWLY-ELECTED BPP LEADERS ARE AS FOLLOWS: CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF OF POLITICAL BUREAU -- A.M.N. AZAHARI MAHMUD; ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF OF ECONOMIC BUREAU -- ZAINI HAJI AHMAD; SECRETARY-GENERAL -- YASSIN AFFANDY; DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL -- JAIS ABBAS; ACTING TREASURER -- S. SALLEH MAHMUD; PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER -- OTHMAN ABDUL LATIFF; CHIEF OF SOCIAL BUREAU -- UMAR TAMIN; CHIEF OF "ORGANIZATION" BUREAU -- SAMAD JAMALUDDIN; CHIEF OF FARMERS AND FISHERMEN SECTION -- M. YUSUF IBRAHIM; CHIEF OF WOMEN'S SECTION -- HAJJAH ROGAYAH RAHMAN; GENERAL ASSISTANT I -- GHANI METUSSIN; GENERAL ASSISTANT II -- HAMZAH SALLEH; AND GENERAL ASSISTANT III -- AHMAD YAACOB. FOR MOST PART, BPP OFFICERS ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO ESCAPED TO SARAWAK IN MID-1973 (REF B). ONE CONDITION OF THEIR ASYLUM IS THAT THEY DO NOT ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN MALAYSIA.

3. THUS FAR PRESS REPORTS HAVE NOT DETAILED PARTY'S PROGRAMS AND OBJECTIVES BUT, ACCORDING RELIABLE PRESS SOURCE, ESTABLISHMENT OF BRUNEI GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE HAS BEEN MOOTED. GOVT-IN-EXILE WOULD ALSO "ACCREDIT" REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER NATIONS ON A REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BASIS. (COMMENT: IF GOVT-IN-EXILE REPORT CORRECT, IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR GOM IN TERMS OF RELATIONS WITH PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, NOT TO MENTION VIET-NAM, CAMBODIA AND SCHISMATIC MOVEMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA.)

4. AT DINNER HOSTED BY DCM JUNE 18, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BRUNEI PETER GAUTHREY, WHO IS VISITING K.L. FOR SEVERAL DAYS CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS BRITISH COLLEAGUES, VENTURED OPINION THAT GOM'S ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IN PROMOTING BPP AND GENERAL POLITICAL FERMENT IN BRUNEI IS EVOLUTION OF NORTH BORNEO FEDERATION COMPRISING BRUNEI, SABAH AND SARAWAK. PERSPECTIVE FROM BANDAR SRI BEGAWAN, ACCORDING TO GAUTREY, IS THAT MALAYSIAN FEDERATION IS NOT VIABLE AND THAT SABAH CHIEF

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MINISTER RAHMAN
YA'KUB PLAN EVENTUAL CREATION OF NORTH BORNEO STATE BASED ON OLD BRUNEI SULTANATE. CONTRASTING VIEW FROM K.L. IS THAT GOM WISHES TO HASTEN DOWNFALL OF AUTOCRATIC SULTANATE BY ENCOURAGING YA'KUB'S NEEDLING SPEECHES AND BY SUPPORTING BPP AS WELL AS YOUNG, SOMEWHAT PRO-MALAYSIAN POLITICAL ELEMENTS WITHIN BRUNEI, WITH THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE BEING TO BRING BRUNEI INTO MALAYSIA. (FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, SEE REF A

AND FORTHCOMING POLITICAL REPORT ON SARAWAK.)

5. COMMENT: WHEREAS CERTAIN GOM ACTIVITIES CAN BE RATIONALIZED AS "UNDERSTANDABLE SYMPATHY" FOR THE PLIGHT OF SO-CALLED DISADVANTAGED MUSLIMS, E.G. SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AND SOUTHERN THAILAND, THIS ARGUMENT CAN SCARCELY BE APPLIED TO BRUNEI. COMING ON THE EVE OF THE ELSAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, THESE OVERT ANTI-BRUNEI MANIFESTATIONS ARE LEAVING GOM OPEN TO THE CHARGE THAT THEY ARE ENGAGED IN GHADDAFI-LIKE POLITICS RATHER THAN THE POLITICS OF NEUTRALISM WHICH ALLEGEDLY ABJURES INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF NEIGHBORING STATES.
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